



Davy European Building Materials Conference
New York, September 4th 2008
Liam O'Mahony, Chief Executive



Contents



H1 2008 Highlights	2
2008 Interim Results	12
Outlook	23
Appendices	28
Contact Us	42



CRH Overview

CRH Overview

The International Building Materials Group



- 1970 merger of Irish Cement and Roadstone; Sales €26M, 95% Ireland
- Now in 34 countries; 3,500+ locations; 92,000+ people
- Annualised Sales over €20Bn focused on three core businesses
- Evenly balanced across geographies, products and sector end-use
- Market Cap c.€9.5Bn, top 6 in sector worldwide
- Listed: Dublin (CRH.I), London (CRH.L) and NYSE (CRH)
- 2007: 15 yrs consecutive PBT and EPS growth; 24 yrs dividend increase

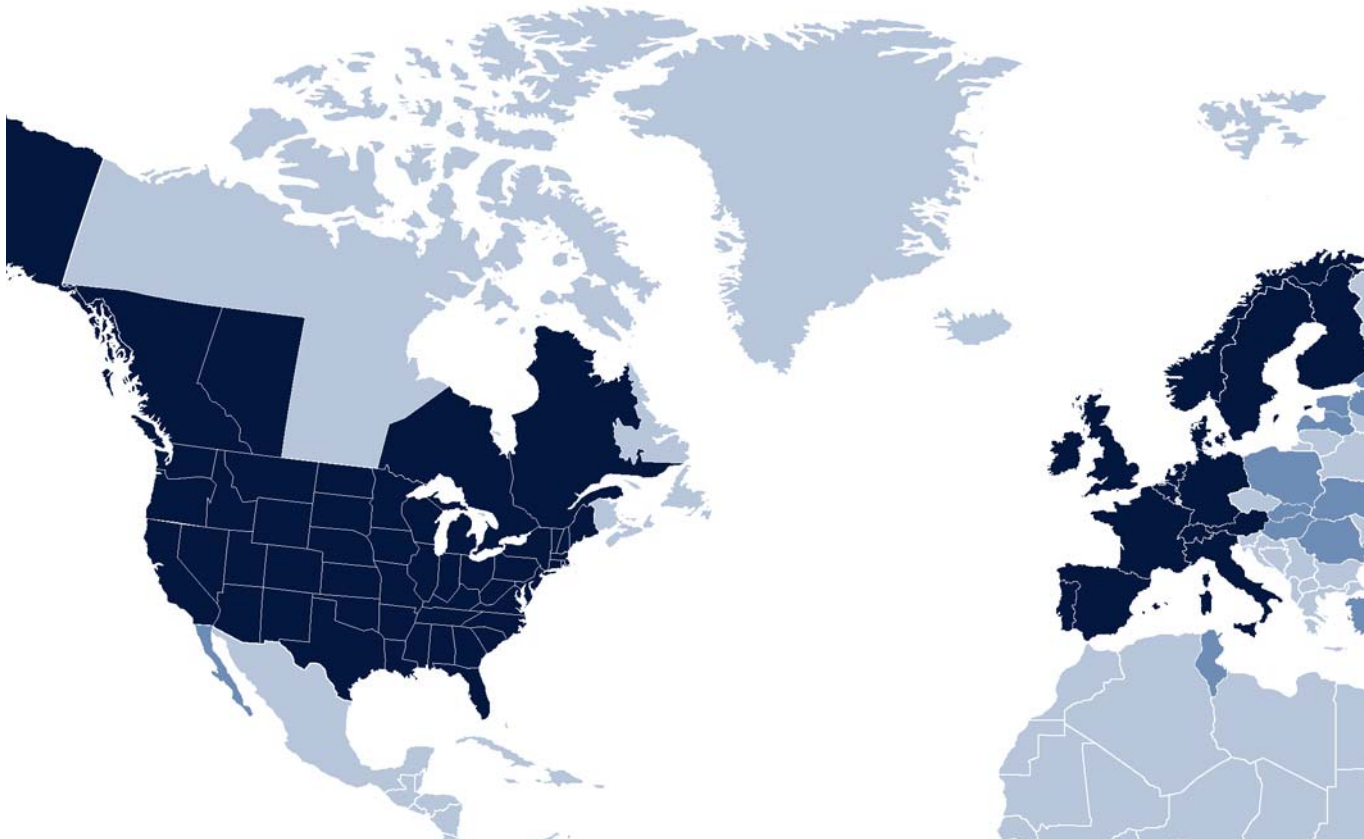
CRH... An International Group

Strong Leadership positions in the Developed World ...



Developed Markets

- Leading regional & national positions in Materials, Products & Distribution
- Opportunities: Ops synergies, Geographic infill, Product extension



***84% Group EBITDA from
17 stable developed world countries***

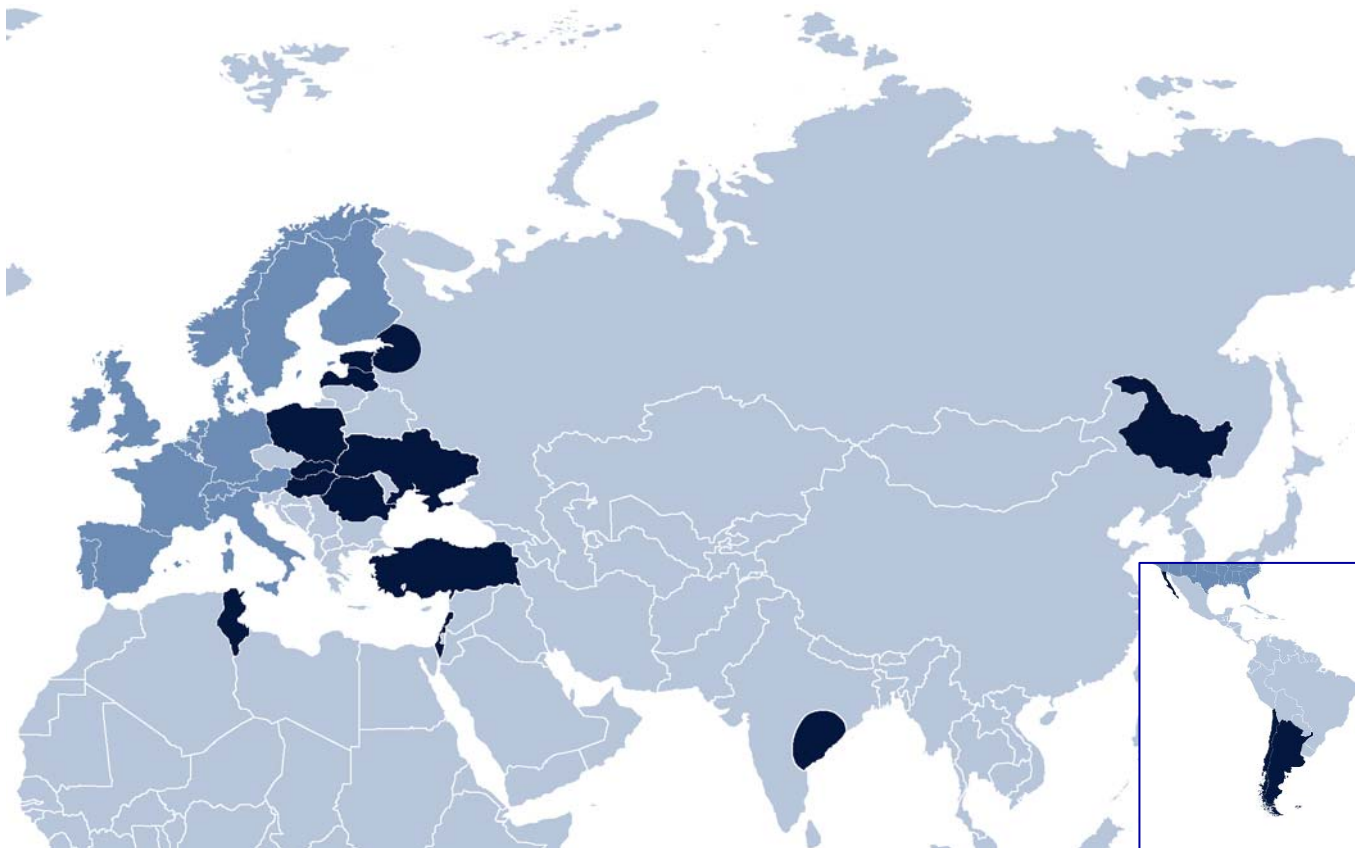
CRH... An International Group

Growing presence in Emerging Regions ...



Emerging Regions

- Heavyside Entry
- Cement Emphasis
- Meaningful Scale
- Potential to create integrated Materials businesses as markets mature



***16% Group EBITDA from
17 emerging region countries; high growth potential for the future***

CRH... Focused and Diversified

Servicing the breadth of Building Materials demand from ...



Materials (55% EBITDA)

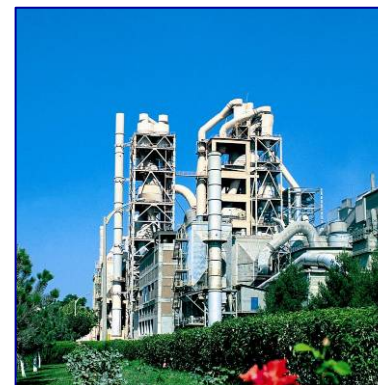
The Fundamentals

Europe

- Top 10 Cement
- Leader Aggregates, R/mix

US

- No.3 Aggregates
- No.1 Asphalt, Top 5 R/mix



***Vertically integrated primary materials businesses
with c13Bn tonnes strategically located long-term reserves***

CRH... Focused and Diversified

Servicing the breadth of Building Materials demand through ...



Concrete Prods (20% EBITDA) Constructing the Frame

Europe

- No.1 Arch/Structural Concrete
- No.1 Construction Accessories

Americas

- No.1 Arch/Precast Concrete
- No.2 Construction Accessories



***Building systems and engineered concrete solutions
for use in Res, Non-Res and Infrastructure applications***

CRH... Focused and Diversified

Servicing the breadth of Building Materials demand through ...



Other Products (12% EBITDA)

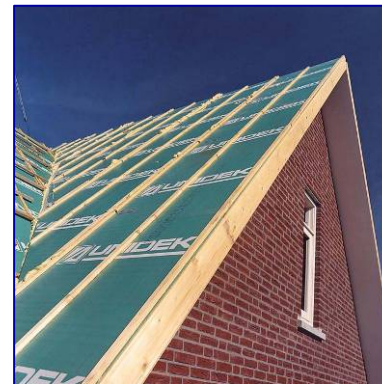
Completing the Envelope

Europe

- No.1 Facing Brick [UK/NL]
- No.1 EPS Insulation [EI/NL/PL/Nordics]
- No.1 Fencing & Security

Americas

- No.1 Architectural Glass
- No.1 Clay Brick [NE/MidW US]



Complementary value-added building products to complete the building envelope and optimise climate control / energy efficiency

CRH... Focused and Diversified

Servicing the breadth of Building Materials demand to ...



Distribution (13% EBITDA)

Fit-out and Renewal

Europe

- Top 3 BM Distributor Mainland Europe
- No.1 NL, No.2 BE - DIY

Americas

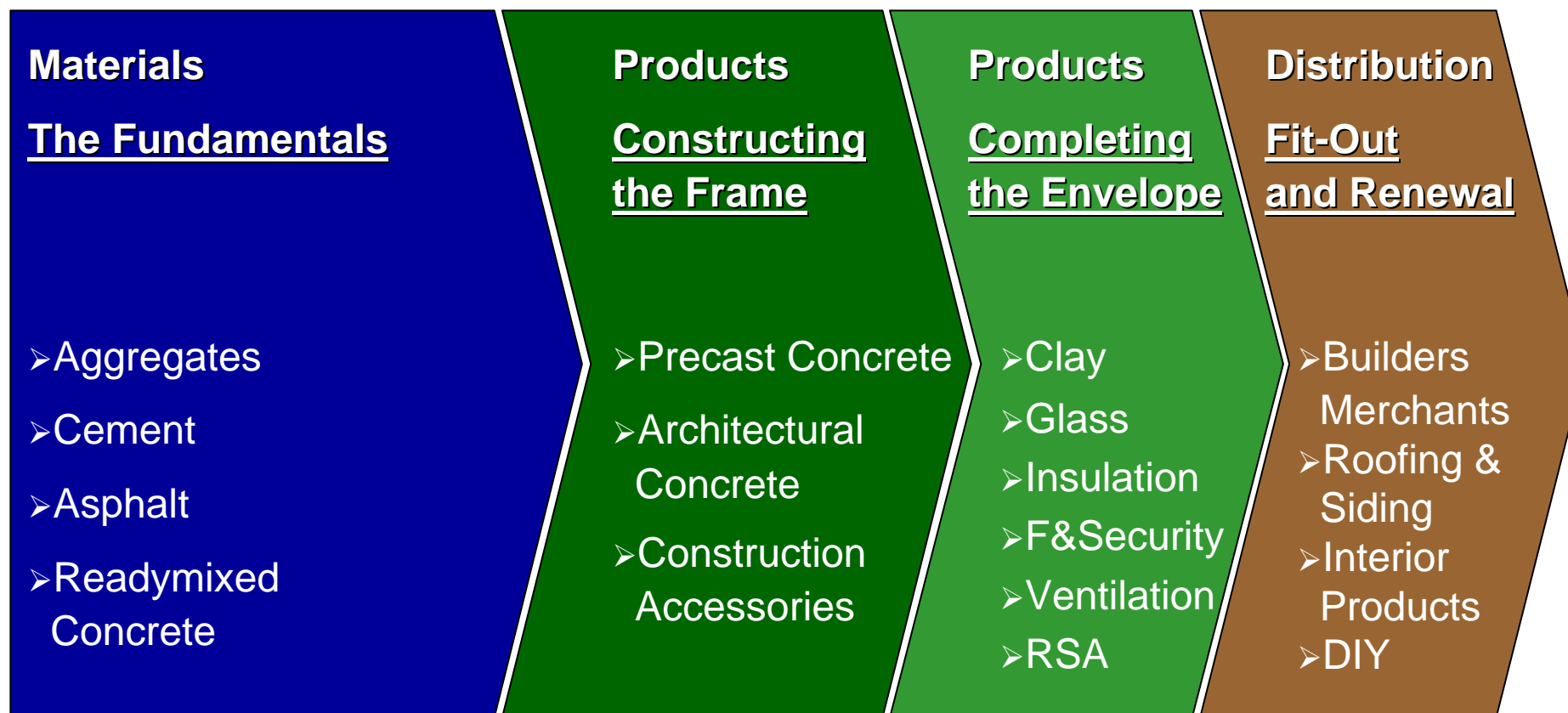
- Top 3 Roofing / Siding
- Top 3 Interior Products



Distribution channels to service the fit-out and renewal of buildings primarily in major metropolitan areas

CRH... Focused and Diversified

Providing Building Materials for Our World

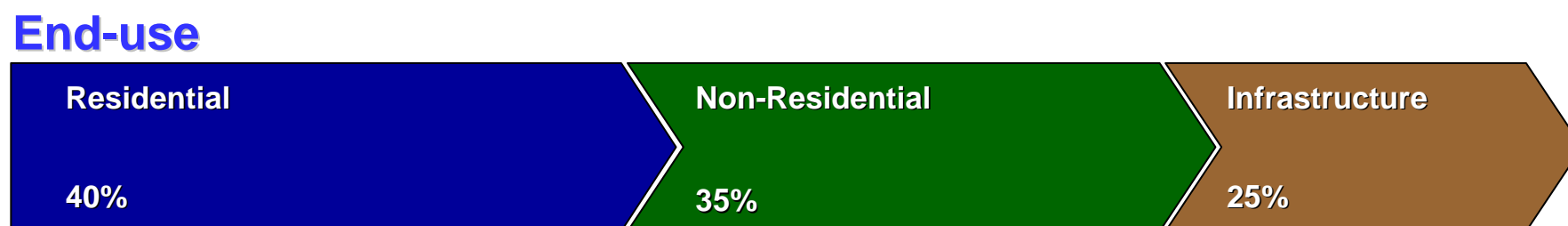
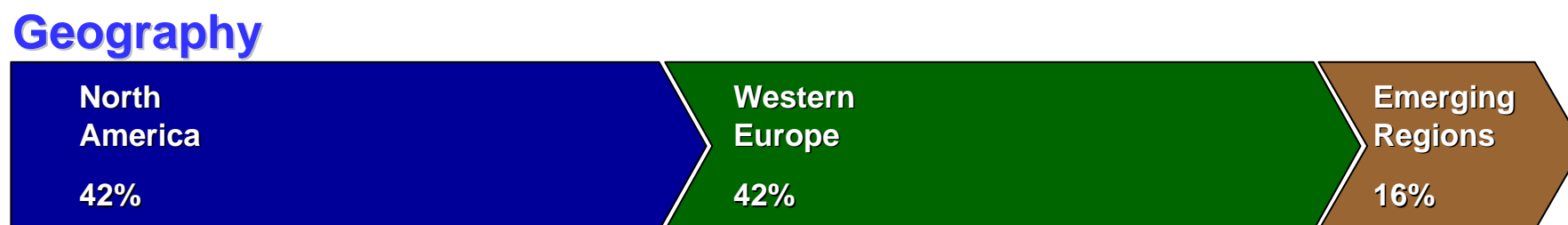
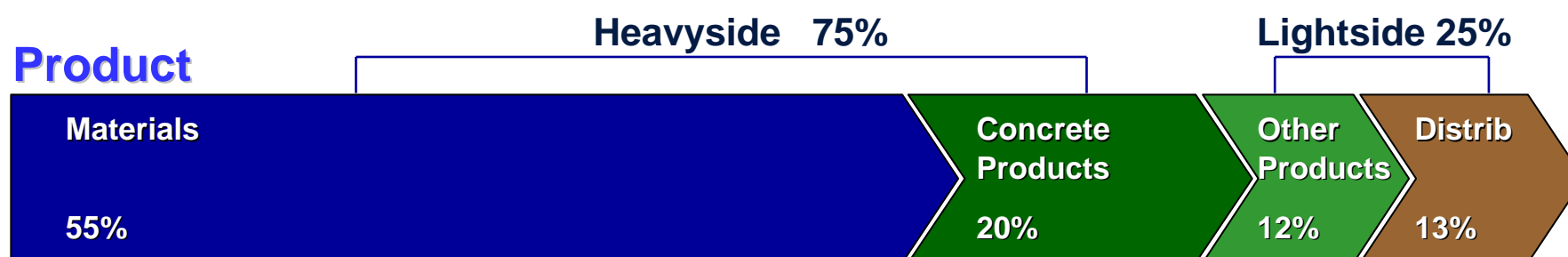


***Embracing the benefits of Integrated & Complementary Businesses
... delivering mid to high teen % RoCE across the portfolio***

CRH... International and Balanced



Broad exposure to industry demand drivers



***Yielding stability of performance
and providing multiple platforms for growth***

2008 Interim Results

H1 2008 Highlights

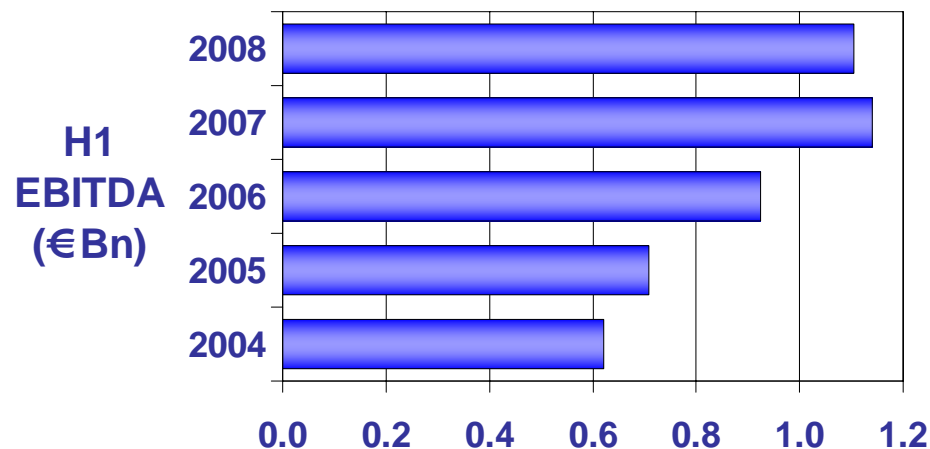
Strategic Balance underpins Performance



- Sales unchanged, EBITDA down -3%, EBIT down -8%, Disposals up +9%
- PBT €606 million; down -10% after adverse translation of €21 million
- Tax rate 23% (2007: 24.5%) based on full year estimate
- Earnings 85.5c, down -8%; Dividend 20.5c, up +2.5%
- €0.7 billion acquisition spend to underpin future growth
- Rolling 12 month EBITDA/Net Interest cover remains high at 9.0x

H1 2008 in Context

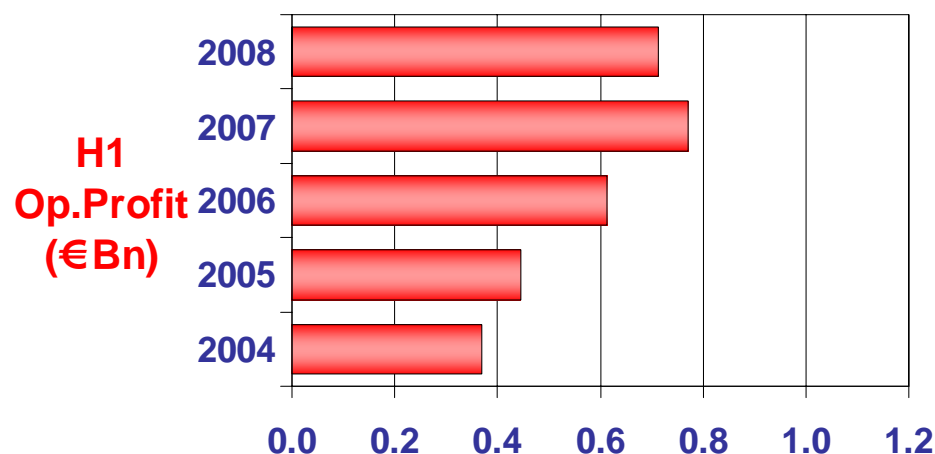
EBITDA and Operating Profit



○ EBITDA: €1.1Bn; down 3%

○ Margin: 11.4% vs 11.8%

○ '92 – '07: +22% cagr



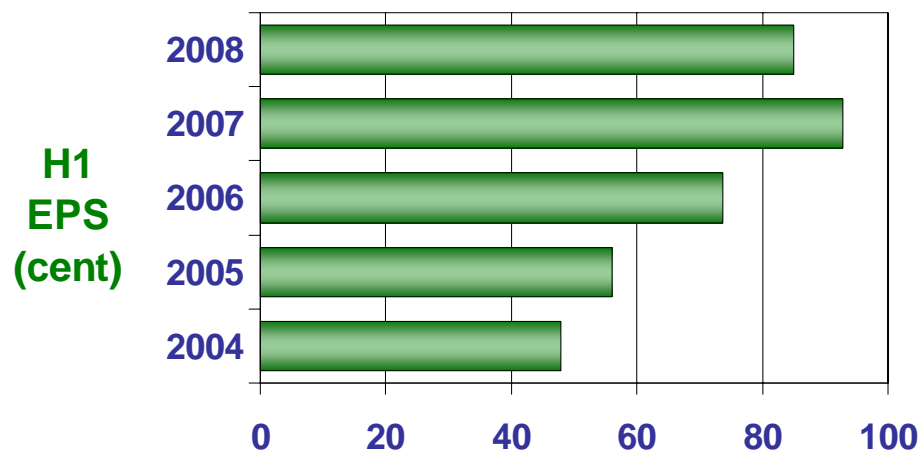
○ Op. Profit: €0.71Bn; down 8%

○ Margin: 7.3% vs 8.0%

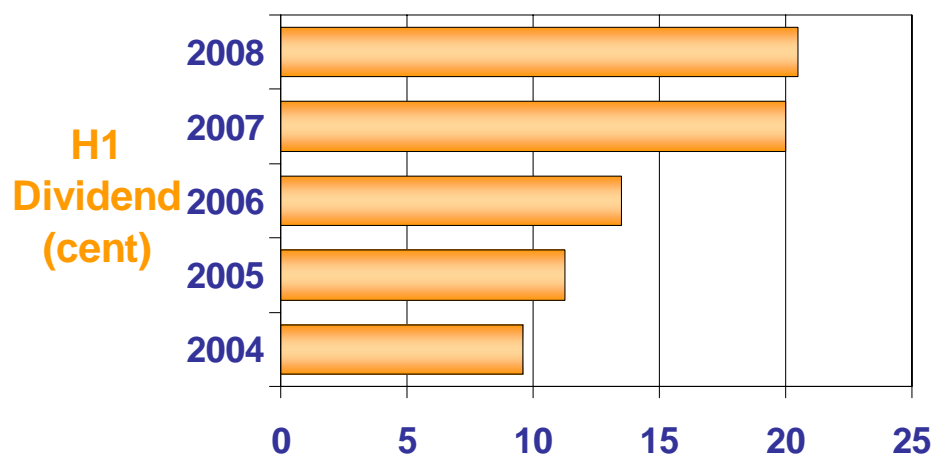
○ '92 – '07: +23% cagr

H1 2008 in Context

EPS and Dividend



- H1 EPS: 85.5c; down -8%
- Down -5% in constant currency
- '92 – '07: +20% cagr



- H1 DPS: 20.5c; up 2.5%
- Continuing payout increase
- '83 – '07: +14% cagr

Europe – Overall

Op.Profit up +4%, with contributions from 2007/08 acqs



€m		H1		Change	Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>			2007	2008	
Sales	+9%	5,523	5,071	+452	-85	+487	+82	-32
Op. profit	+4%	515	495	+20	-14	+27	+6	+1
Op. margin		9.3%	9.8%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

○ Materials

- Positive start; continuing advances in Poland/Ukraine, Portugal recovery
- More than compensating for declines in Ireland & Spain

○ Products

- After good start, overall trading patterns in Q2 were slower
- UK Clay particularly impacted by sharp Res slowdown & higher input costs

○ Distribution

- Lower Benelux DIY activity/profits more than offset good start in BM
- Operating Profit broadly in line with inclusion of Gétaz Romang (May '07)

Americas – Overall

Operating Profit down -18% in constant currency



€m		H1			Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change		2007	2008	
Sales	-10%	4,181	4,627	-446	-404	+513	+39	-594
Op. profit	-29%	197	276	-79	-70	+23	+3	-35
Op. margin	4.7%	6.0%						

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

○ Materials

- Trend of strong pricing with associated like-for-like volume declines continues
- Wet weather in May/June hampered start of highway construction season

○ Products

- Ongoing declines in Res and moderation in Non-Res activity
- Profit declines in Precast, APG; improved results in Glass, MMI, S. America

○ Distribution

- Sales higher than H1'07 reflecting the inclusion of AMS (Nov '07)
- Higher US\$ operating profit with similar margins

H1 2008 Development Activity

€0.7Bn spend maintaining strong development record



- H1 2008 Acquisitions: 40% Europe; 15% Americas; 45% Emerging Regions
 - Materials – first cement investment in India (45% My Home Industries)
 - Products – extension of Construction Accessories platform (Ancon)
 - 35 Bolt-ons – adding to product and regional positioning
- Additional €0.6Bn announced expected to complete later in the year
 - Materials – 26% of major NE China cement producer, option to 49% (Yatai)
 - Products – major US concrete products manufacturer (Pavestone)
- Ongoing focus: compelling value and exceptional strategic fit

***H1 2008 Acquisition Sales Impact
c€0.4Bn (2008), c€0.2Bn (2009)***

Responsive to Changing Markets

A Focus on Cost ...



- Targeted cost reduction programmes an ongoing feature of CRH
- Tailored to ongoing business performance / market developments
- Significant specific measures implemented since early 2007
 - Labour savings appropriate to balance capacity / market demand
 - Energy cost management through investment / alternative fuel usage
 - Purchasing initiatives leveraging Group strength
 - Lower utilisation of bought-in services as volumes decline
- Resulting in total annualised gross savings of €550m (net c €500m)

Annualised Savings

Achieved to date



€m	Europe	Americas	Total
Labour Savings	95	125	220
Energy Related	45	20	65
Purchasing Initiatives etc.	45	40	85
Bought-in Services	105	75	180
Total gross savings	290	260	550

- Cost to Implement c €50m

- Analysis of net incremental savings:

	2007	2008	2009
	€50m	€350m	€100m

- Contingency plans for further measures as required

Balance Sheet Management

Cash Generation and Funding



○ **Cash Generation**

- H2 operating cash inflow pre-acquisitions / buyback to exceed €1Bn
- Adjusting maintenance capex levels due to reduced demand
- Focus on development opportunities offering compelling value & strategic fit

○ **Funding**

- €0.65Bn of additional finance arranged since 30 June
- Looking to further debt issuance post recent STG£ & US\$ bonds
- Strong interest cover; remain committed to investment grade debt rating

Delivering value for Shareholders

Dividend Policy and Share Buyback



○ Dividend Policy

- 2007 total dividend (up 31%), cover 3.9 times
- Target cover c 3.5 times for 2008 financial year
- H1 2008 dividend of 20.5c per share up 2.5%

○ Share Buyback

- Share repurchase programme of up to 5%, initiated January 2008
- To-date, c 16.5m shares repurchased at an average of c €23 per share
- Programme continuing through Q3 and Q4



Outlook

2008 Full Year Europe Outlook

Low single digit % increase on 2007 Op. Profit



Indications	Materials	Products	Distribution	Total
2008 Change	mid-teen % increase	mid-teen % decrease	similar outcome	low single digit % inc
2007 Actual	€586m	€308m	€212m	€1,106m

○ Materials

- Positive H1 with continuing advances in CEE/PT more than offsetting EI/ES
- Expect broad trends to continue in H2; plus benefits from new Indian JV

○ Products

- Expect slower trends evident in Q2 to continue and likely intensify in H2
- Resultant organic declines to be somewhat offset by H2 acqs contributions

○ Distribution

- Expect further challenges from gradual slowing of Eurozone growth
- With contributions from acquisitions expect broadly similar outcome

Balance: Res c50%, Non-Res c30%, Infrastructure c 20%

2008 Full Year Americas Outlook



US\$ Op. Profit to show low-teen % decline on 2007

Indications	Materials	Products	Distribution	Total
2008 Change	low-teen % decrease	high-teen % decrease	mid-teen % increase	low-teen % decrease
2007 Actual	\$781m	\$466m	\$96m	\$1,343m

○ Materials

- Pricing to recover input costs having increasingly adverse volume impact
- Assuming normal H2 weather patterns, expect low-teen % decrease

○ Products

- Further challenges in H2 from Res declines and weakening Non-Res
- Significant cost reduction initiatives to limit Operating Profit decline

○ Distribution

- H1 exceeded expectations; expect further H2 operational benefits
- Anticipate full year Operating Profit will be ahead of 2007

Balance: Res c30%, Non-Res c35%, Infrastructure c 35%

Overall 2008 Outlook

Twin goals – Performance and Growth



- Some recent easing of commodity prices & strengthening US\$
- However, negative economic / financial market newsflow has continued
- With recent international developments adding to risk and uncertainties
- As previously indicated 2008 outcome will be lower than record 2007
- Expect full year % PBT decline to be broadly similar to that for H1
- With lesser EPS reduction due to share buyback & expected lower tax rate

Going Forward

Continuation of our clear consistent strategic vision ...



- Strong market positions; strategic reserves; experienced management team
- Balance sheet capacity to avail of appropriate development opportunities
- Difficult market outlook for immediate future
- Proactively managing cost base to deal with short-term challenges ...
- ... and positioning the Group for the eventual upturn
- Focused on delivery – short-term and long-term



Appendices

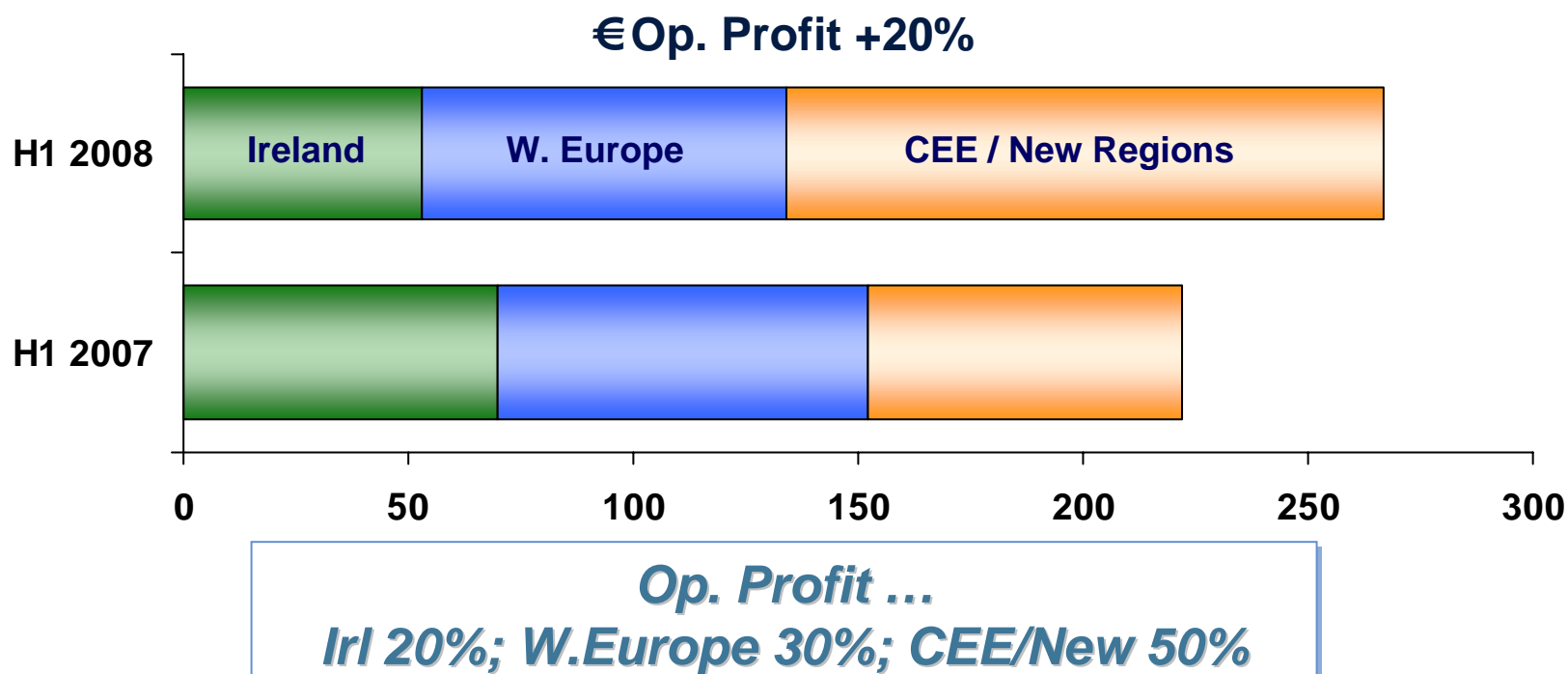
Europe Materials

Strong organic growth in higher margin CEE cement ops



€m		H1		Change	Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		2008	2007			2007	2008	
Sales	+7%	1,810	1,686	+124	-30	+153	+6	-5
Op. profit	+20%	267	222	+45	+25	+16	-	+4
Op. margin	14.8%		13.2%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



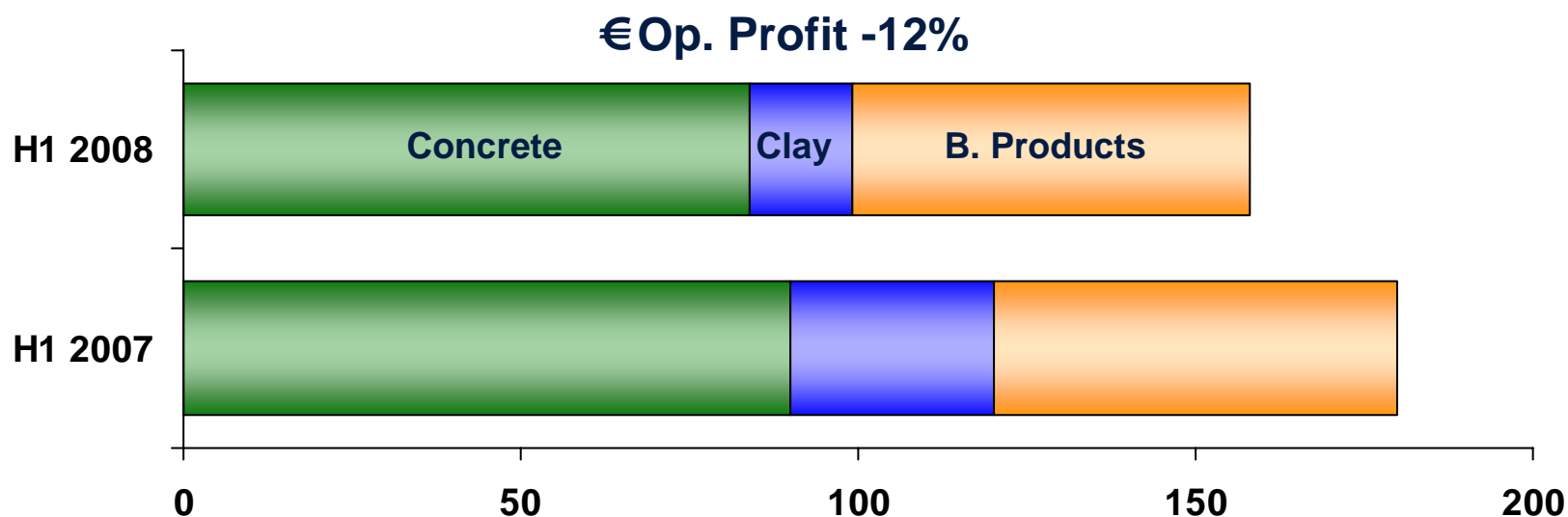
Europe Products

Sharp decline in UK Clay the main impact



€m		H1			Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change		2007	2008	
Sales	+4%	1,908	1,826	+82	-17	+73	+58	-32
Op. profit	-12%	158	180	-22	-27	+4	+4	-3
Op. margin	8.3%		9.9%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



***Strong Concrete base (50%),
growing Building Products platform***

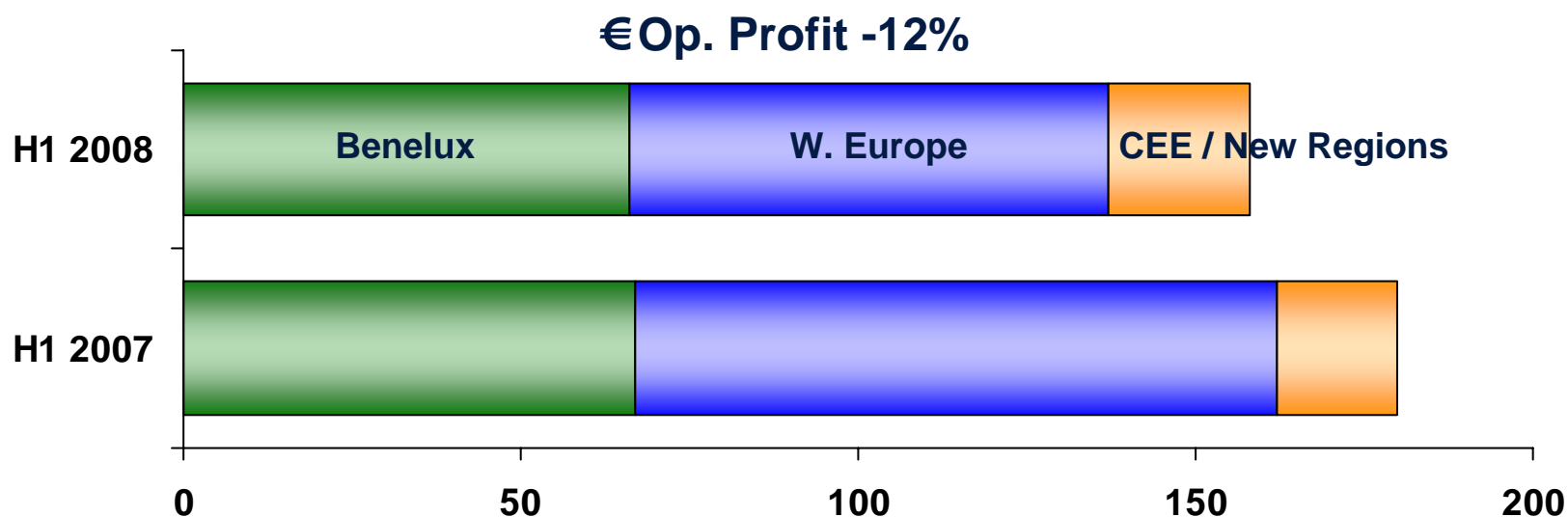
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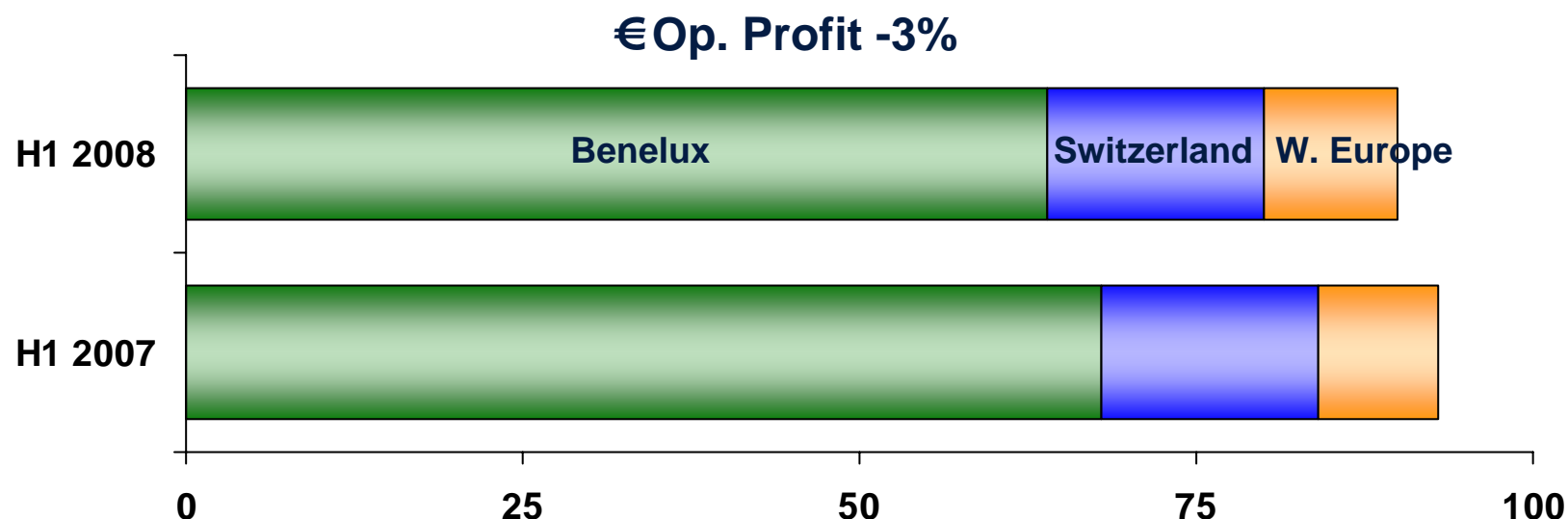
Europe Distribution

Organic decline largely offset by acquisitions



€m		H1			Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change		2007	2008	
Sales	+16%	1,805	1,559	+246	-38	+261	+18	+5
Op. profit	-3%	90	93	-3	-12	+7	+2	-
Op. margin	5.0%	6.0%						

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



*Leading positions Benelux/Switzerland,
growing platforms in France/Germany*

Americas Materials

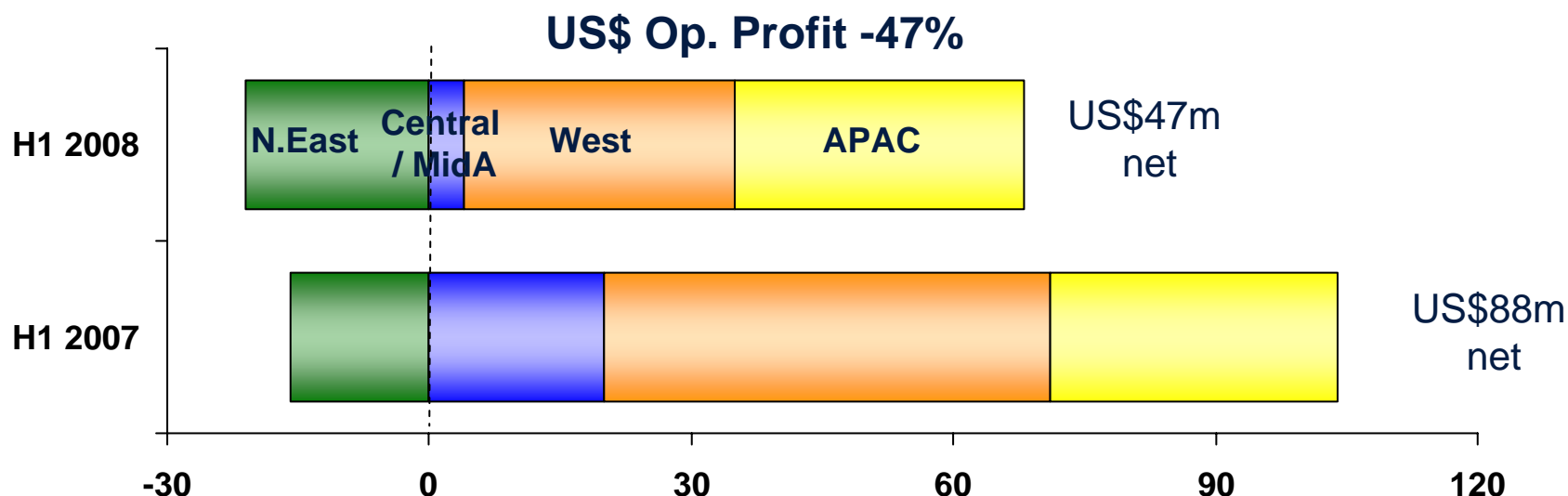
Adverse weather in seasonally less significant H1



		H1			Acquisitions			
€m		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change	Organic	2007	2008	FX
Sales	-14%	1,874	2,181	-307	-222	+182	+20	-287
Op. profit	-53%	31	66	-35	-27	-	+1	-9
Op. margin		1.7%	3.0%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



Heritage vols: aggs -19%; asphalt -10%; rmc -22%
Prices: aggs +11%; asphalt +12%; rmc +4%

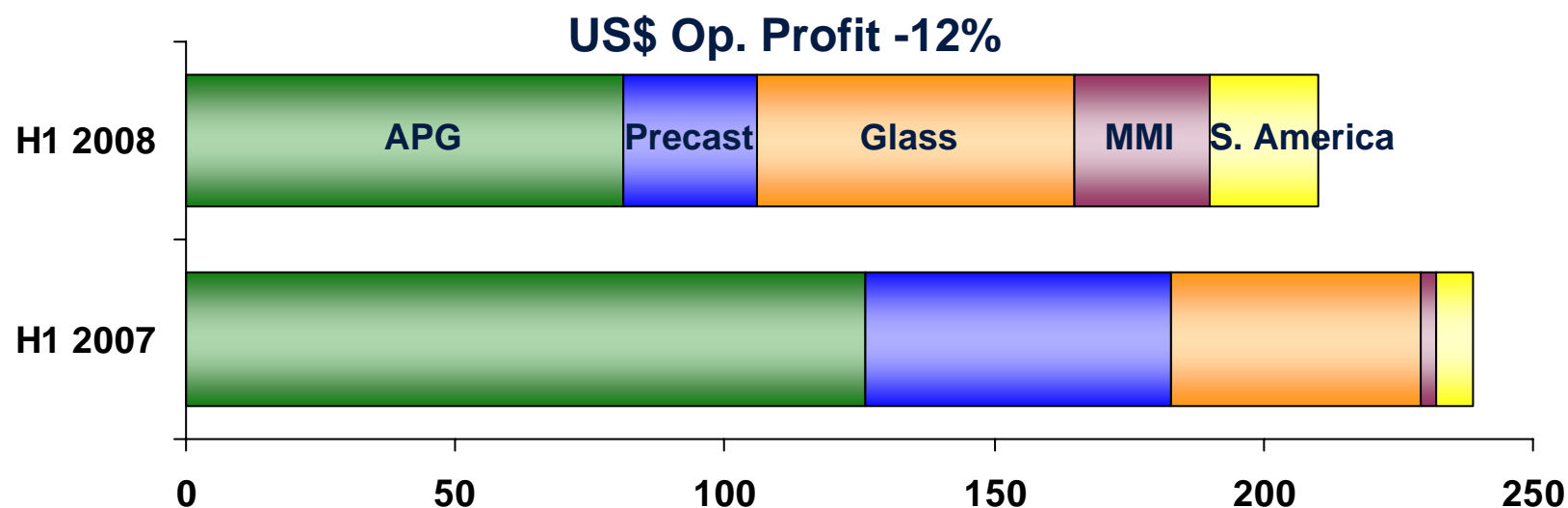
Americas Products

Balanced operations limit US\$ decline to 12%



€m		H1			Organic	Acquisitions		FX
		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change		2007	2008	
Sales	-8%	1,660	1,796	-136	-118	+190	+13	-221
Op. profit	-24%	137	180	-43	-36	+13	+2	-22
Op. margin	8.3%		10.0%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



***Strong concrete products base;
APG & Precast c50% of total***

Americas Distribution

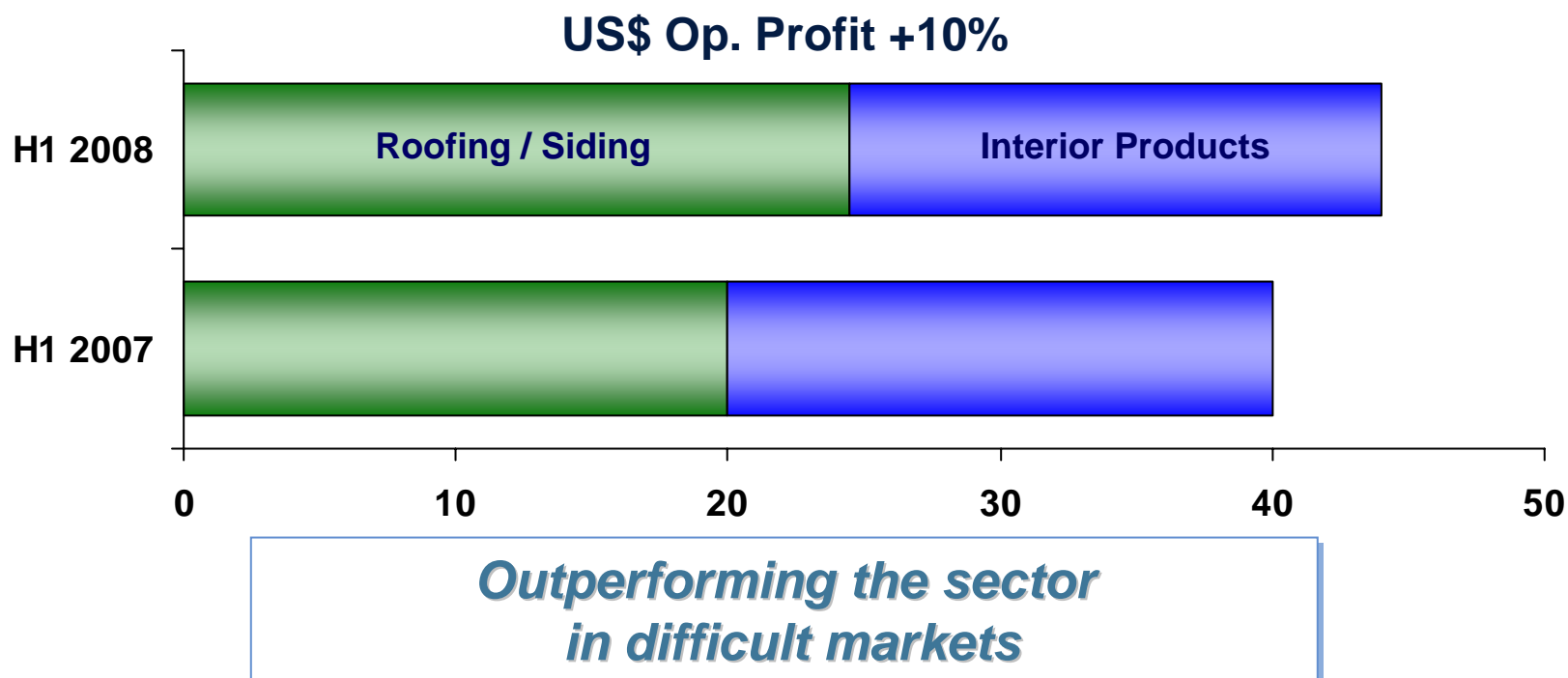
Successful margin management



		H1			Acquisitions			
€m		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	Change	Organic	2007	2008	FX
Sales		647	650	-3	-64	+141	+6	-86
Op. profit	-3%	29	30	-1	-7	+10	-	-4
Op. margin		4.5%	4.6%					

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal

Operating profit excludes profit on disposal



Key Components of H1 Performance **CRH**

PBT down 7% in constant currency terms

€m	H1				Acquisitions		FX
	2008	2007	Change	Organic	2007	2008	
Sales	9,704	9,698	+6	-489	+1,000	+121	-626
Operating Profit	712	771	-59	-84	+50	+9	-34
Profit on disposals	24	22	+2	+3	-	-	-1
Trading Profit	736	793	-57	-81	+50	+9	-35
Finance Costs (net)	-161	-150	-11	+30	-48	-7	+14
Associates	31	27	+4	+4	-	-	-
Profit before tax	606	670	-64	-47	+2	+2	-21
PBT % chg v. H1 '07			-10%	-7%	-	-	-3%

Analysis by Segment



€m	2008	H1 2007	% change
Sales			
Europe Materials	1,810	1,686	+7%
Europe Products	1,908	1,826	+4%
Europe Distribution	1,805	1,559	+16%
Americas Materials	1,874	2,181	-14%
Americas Products	1,660	1,796	-8%
Americas Distribution	647	650	-%
Total	9,704	9,698	-%
Operating Profit			
Europe Materials	267	222	+20%
Europe Products	158	180	-12%
Europe Distribution	90	93	-3%
Americas Materials	31	66	-53%
Americas Products	137	180	-24%
Americas Distribution	29	30	-3%
Total	712	771	-8%

Analysis by Region



€m	H1		%
	2008	2007	change
Sales			
Ireland	576	695	-17%
Benelux	1,543	1,444	+7%
Rest of Europe	3,399	2,933	+16%
Americas	4,186	4,626	-10%
Total	9,704	9,698	-%
Operating Profit			
Ireland	56	73	-23%
Benelux	138	136	+1%
Rest of Europe	321	286	+12%
Americas	197	276	-29%
Total	712	771	-8%

Profit on Disposal



€m	H1	
	2008	2007
Analysis by Segment		
Europe Materials	3	12
Europe Products	10	2
Europe Distribution	1	-
Americas Materials	9	7
Americas Products	1	-
Americas Distribution	-	1
Total	24	22
Analysis by Region		
Ireland	1	11
Benelux	8	3
Rest of Europe	5	-
Americas	10	8
Total	24	22

Foreign Currency Rates



	Average			Year-end		
	Six months ended 2008	Year ended 2007	Year ended 2007	Six months ended 2008	Year ended 2007	Year ended 2007
euro 1=						
US Dollar	1.5304	1.3291	1.3705	1.5764	1.3505	1.4721
Pound Sterling	0.7752	0.6746	0.6843	0.7923	0.6740	0.7334
Polish Zloty	3.4901	3.8441	3.7837	3.3513	3.7677	3.5935
Ukrainian Hryvnia	7.5286	6.6955	6.8982	7.1853	6.7997	7.3588
Swiss Franc	1.6065	1.6318	1.6427	1.6056	1.6553	1.6547
Canadian Dollar	1.5401	1.5078	1.4678	1.5942	1.4245	1.4449
Argentine Peso	4.8037	4.1078	4.2718	4.7592	4.1834	4.5948
Israeli Shekel	5.3856	5.5198	5.6270	5.2791	5.7574	5.6201

Euroconstruct Forecasts



Construction output 2008 (Euroconstruct June 2008)

		%
Belgium	↑	+2.7
Denmark	↓	-0.7
Finland	↑	+3.0
France	↑	+1.5
Germany	↑	+1.2
Ireland	↓	-17.7
Netherlands	↑	+3.1
Poland	↑	+14.6
Portugal	↑	+2.2
Spain	↓	-5.9
Sweden	↑	+3.4
Switzerland	↑	+1.9
United Kingdom	↓	-0.5

Contact Us



CRH plc
Investor Relations
Belgard Castle
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
Ireland

Phone: + 353 1 404 1000
Fax: + 353 1 404 1007
Email: ir@crh.com

or look up our Website - www.crh.com



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